

■ Guide To Career Choices

THE FUTURE IS YOURS

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agribusiness

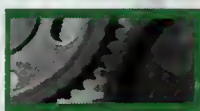
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a brief look at:

APR 10 2002

- jobs
- education and training requirements
- wages
- outlook

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ENTRY : The mean (average) of the bottom third of wages in an occupation.
 MEDIAN: Half of the workers in the occupation earn more than this wage; half earn less.
 EXPERIENCED : The mean of the top two-thirds of wages in an occupation.

HS > High school diploma or equivalent
 AD > Associate Degree of Arts/Science
 community college, 2 years
 BA/BS > Bachelor of Arts/Science degree
 colleges/universities, 4 years



OUTLOOK

HOURLY WAGES

Career Opportunities	2008 EMPLOYMENT	LONG-TERM OUTLOOK	SHORT-TERM FORECAST	ENTRY	MEDIAN	EXPERIENCED	EDUCATION AND TRAINING
Agricultural & Food Scientists	435	UF	VUF	\$13.15	\$22.46	\$30.08	BA/BS; some specialties may require an advanced degree.
Biological & Agricultural Technicians	1,540	UF	F	\$8.26	\$13.05	\$17.52	AD; most begin as trainees and take on more responsibilities as they gain experience.
Farmers	69,460	VUF	VUF	***	***	***	Completion of a four-year degree in a college of agriculture is becoming increasingly important.
Farm Equipment Mechanics	2,535	VUF	VUF	\$8.08	\$11.09	\$13.08	HS/AD; most employers prefer to hire completers of a formal one or two year training program.
Farm Managers	3,775	UF	UF	***	***	***	Completion of a four-year degree in a college of agriculture is becoming increasingly important.
Laborers, Landscaping/Groundskeeping	59,445	VF	VF	\$6.62	\$9.13	\$13.32	Almost all acquire necessary knowledge on the job.
Lawn Service Managers	2,746	VF	VF	\$7.10	\$11.40	\$14.93	HS; most advance as they gain experience.
Nursery & Greenhouse Managers	236	UF	F	\$6.18	\$9.94	\$14.27	HS; most advance as they gain experience.
Veterinarians	2,553	F	F	\$13.85	\$23.70	\$32.10	Licensure in Illinois is obtained by completing a two-year pre-veterinary program and an approved four-year veterinary medicine and surgery program.

• Occupational growth rates and job opening data are based on All-Industry projections through the year 2008.

• Long-Term Outlook and Short-Term Forecast descriptors are derived from projected employment growth and the level of employment for the occupation as a percentage of total employment.

• Wage data cover full-time, part-time and seasonal employees but exclude temporary and contractual workers. Wages include piece rates, commissions and cost-of-living allowances but exclude overtime and tips.

***data are not available

F Favorable
 VF Very Favorable
 UF Unfavorable
 VUF Very Unfavorable

■ WHAT ARE SOME OF THE JOBS?

FARMERS & FARM MANAGERS...are responsible for the efficient and profitable production of crops, livestock and other agricultural products. Farmers may be owner-operators or tenant farmers who rent the use of the land. Many times the size of the operation will determine whether the farmer performs all job functions from management to labor or if managerial duties are performed by a farm manager. Specific tasks are determined by the type of farm unit in question. However, all farming situations require numerous skills and substantial personal dedication and energy.

VETERINARY TECHNICIANS...perform medical treatments and tests in an animal health care setting under the supervision of a veterinarian. Job duties include taking and developing x-rays, treating animals both before and after surgery, dispensing medications, assisting during examinations, and cleaning and feeding animals. Graduates from accredited programs may be certified by the Illinois Department Of Professional Regulation.

GARDENERS & GROUNDSKEEPERS...maintain and care for trees, shrubs, flowering plants, and lawns at office buildings, residential properties, athletic fields, golf courses, parks and cemeteries. Duties include planting, mowing, trimming, spraying, fertilizing, watering and protecting plants of many varieties.

BIOLOGICAL & AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIANS...perform research and analysis to improve the production and processing of foods and fibers. Some conduct experiments to increase crop yields, to develop insect- and disease-resistant plants or to improve animal breeding and nutrition.

FARM EQUIPMENT MECHANICS...repair farm machinery of many types and sizes. Most are now called service technicians as the complexity and variety of equipment maintained has grown in recent years. Common equipment maintained includes tractors, combines, balers, spreaders, sprayers, planters, and tillers.

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■ WHAT IS THE JOB OUTLOOK?

While productivity and output continues to grow in agriculture, employment in the agricultural production industry is expected to remain flat through the year 2008. However, employment in the agricultural services industry (which includes landscape services) and the broader agribusiness sector is expected to expand about as fast as the average for all industries in Illinois. Job openings for gardeners and groundskeepers and lawn maintenance workers are expected to be plentiful. Demand for these workers will create many new positions, but many openings will also arise from the need to replace workers who leave this occupation every year. The trend toward fewer, yet larger farms and advances in mechanization will limit job growth for farmers in the future. All of the job openings for farmers are projected to come from the need to replace workers who leave the occupation.

The number of young people seeking careers in agribusiness has fallen somewhat in recent years. Those interested in this industry who acquire the necessary education and skills should find ample opportunities for employment in Illinois and the Midwest.

■ WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

The Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2000-01 Edition, contains many additional sources of information for over 250 occupations in all sectors of the economy. You may order the Handbook by contacting the U.S. Government Bookstore, 401 South State Street, Suite 124, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1297, 312/353-5133 or check out the online version at <http://stats.bls.gov/ocohome.htm>.

For access to other labor market and workforce information on the internet, visit the following sites:

IDES' home page: <http://www.ides.state.il.us>,

LMI Source: <http://lmi.ides.state.il.us>,

Workforce Info Center: <http://www.ILWorkInfo.com> and a site targeted towards high school students:

<http://www.workforceinfo.state.il.us>.



Career Guide Sources:

Illinois Department of Employment Security's "Occupational Projections" and "Occupational Employment Statistics Wage Data" and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' "Occupational Outlook Handbook"

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